

Appl. No. 10/731,566

Dated 09/30/2005

Reply to Office Action of 08/30/2005

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on 08/30/2005. In the Office Action, claims 1-34 were restricted under 35 USC 121 into two groups of claims.

Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the remarks made herein.

Applicant has amended claims 5, 15 and 31 by this response. No claim has been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-34 remain pending. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 5, and 21 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2, the Office Action has restricted claims 1-34 into two groups of claims as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-14 and 21-30, drawn to a design method for transforming sequential logic designs into equivalent combinational logic comprising simulating each stage, saving the simulation values and performing a plurality of backward logic traces, classified in Class 716, subclass 3.

Group II: Claims 15-20 and 31-34, drawn to a back tracking method for transforming sequential logic designs into equivalent combinational logic comprising determining whether a time T is negative with specific conditions as recited in the claims, classified in Class 71 6, subclass 3.

6450.P003

10

WEA/phs

Appl. No. 10/731,566

**Dated 09/30/2005**

Reply to Office Action of 08/30/2005

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses in part and provisionally elects Group I claims 1-14 and 21-30 for examination.

Applicant has amended independent claim 15 into dependent form to depend from independent claim 1 of Group I.

Applicant has amended independent claim 31 into dependent form to depend from independent 21 of Group I.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-20 and 31-34 are now part of Group I claims 1-14 and 21-30.

Applicant has further amended dependent claim 5 into independent form including the limitations of the base claim, independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests a first examination of claims 1-34.

Appl. No. 10/731,566

Dated 09/30/2005

Reply to Office Action of 08/30/2005

CONCLUSION

In view of the claim amendments, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Examination of the claims is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. If any other petition is necessary for consideration of this paper, it is hereby so petitioned. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: September 27, 2005

  
WILLIAM E. ALFORD, Reg. No. 37,764

12400 Wilshire Boulevard,  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California  
90025  
(714) 557-3800

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 CFR 51.8 on:  
September 30, 2005 to Examiner Vuthe Siek  
at (703) 872-9306.

*Pat Sullivan* 9/30/05  
Pat Sullivan